

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraphs 0014, 0019, and 0026 as follows:

**[0014]** According to the embodiment shown, the rear retaining element 3 has a rear retaining block 6 articulated with respect to a stirrup 7. The stirrup is mounted to pivot with respect to a rear plate 10 for supporting the rear portion of the boot. The rear plate 10 is affixedly attached to the ski by any appropriate means, for example, by screws, by gluing, or by welding. The rear retaining block 6 has a jaw 8 for retaining the boot and a control lever 9 affixed to the block for forcing the pivoting of the jaw between a position for retaining the rear end piece of the boot and a position for releasing this end piece. In FIG. 1, the retaining block is in a boot retaining position.

**[0019]** In FIGS. 3-6, Here, the jaw 15 is shown as a unitary element having two lateral wings 16 and 17 for the lateral retention of the boot, and a sole clamp 18 for the vertical retention of the boot. The front retention of the boot is achieved by the lower portion of the jaw upon contact with the sole, or by the central portion of the sole clamp upon contact with the boot upper.

**[0026]** In order to release the jaw 15, the arm 28 is tilted upwardly about its axle 26, as shown in FIG. 5, whereby the arm 28 is moved from engagement with a surface for blocking the jaw 15 against movement to a boot-release position, to disengagement with such surface for unblocking the jaw, thereby allowing movement of the jaw 15 to the boot-release position. The jaw 15 thus released has the possibility of tilting forwardly by being engaged under the arm 28, as shown in FIG. 6.